I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EU098496215US, in an envelope addressed to: Box AF, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: January 21, 2003 Signature: (Monica L. Thomas)

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Docket No.: HO-P01899US2
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#20/E NG
Huda
2-2-03

In re Patent Application of:
Huda Y. Zoghbi

Application No.: 09/585,645 Group Art Unit: 1633

Filed: June 1, 2000 Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF AN ATONAL-ASSOCIATED SEQUENCE FOR DEAFNESS, OSTEOARTHRITIS AND ABNORMAL CELL PROLIFERATION

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

This submission is in response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002 (Paper No. 19), finally rejecting claims 40-48, 50, 112-119, 121 and 123. An Amended Sequence Listing is filed herewith to satisfy the outstanding objection from the Examiner, and the corresponding amendment to the specification is provided below.

Please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Line 15 on Page 33 with the following paragraph:

In a specific embodiment, the present invention also provides a method of treating an animal in need of treatment for a deficiency in cerebellar granule neurons, a hearing impairment, an imbalance disorder, a joint disease, or in need of promoting mechanoreceptive cell growth, or a disease that is a result of loss of functional atonal-associated nucleic acid or amino acid sequences. This method comprises delivering a